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Application Serial No. 09/779,559
Amendment dated June 30, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-81 (canceled without prejudice or disclaimer).

82 (previously presented): A substrate coated with an essentially water-free composition, wherein said composition comprises a superabsorbent polymer that absorbs greater than 100 times its weight in water in combination with a silicone comprising a siloxane, a low molecular weight silicone polymer, or diorganic silicon oxide, said composition comprising a dispersion of said superabsorbent polymer and said silicone, and wherein said composition optionally contains an additive comprising a lubricant additive.

83 (previously presented): The substrate of claim 82 wherein said additive comprises a detergent or a dispersant.

84 (previously presented): The substrate of claim 82 wherein said superabsorbent polymer comprises a neutralized or cross-linked superabsorbent polymer based on acrylic acid, acrylamide, or an acrylate.

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85 (currently amended): The substrate of claim **83** **82** wherein said superabsorbent polymer comprises a neutralized or cross-linked superabsorbent polymer based on acrylic acid, acrylamide, or an acrylate.

86 (previously presented): The substrate of claim **82** wherein said substrate comprises a cable.

87 (previously presented): The substrate of claim **82** wherein said substrate comprises a wire.

88 (previously presented): A method of protecting a substrate from the affects of water or water migration comprising coating said substrate with an essentially water-free composition, wherein said composition comprises a superabsorbent polymer that absorbs greater than 100 times its weight in water in combination with a with a silicone comprising a siloxane, a low molecular weight silicone polymer, or diorgano silicon oxide, said composition comprising a dispersion of said superabsorbent polymer and said silicone, and wherein said composition optionally contains an additive comprising a lubricant additive.

89 (previously presented): The method of claim **88** wherein said additive comprises a detergent or a dispersant.

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80 (previously presented): The method of claim 88 wherein said superabsorbent polymer comprises a neutralized or cross-linked superabsorbent polymer based on acrylic acid, acrylamide, or an acrylate.

81 (previously presented): The method of claim 88 wherein said superabsorbent polymer comprises a neutralized or cross-linked superabsorbent polymer based on acrylic acid, acrylamide, or an acrylate.

92 (previously presented): The method of claim 88 wherein said substrate comprises a cable.

93 (previously presented): The method of claim 88 wherein said substrate comprises a wire.

94 (previously presented): The substrate of claim 82 wherein the composition comprises a dispersion in which the particle size of the superabsorbent polymer comprises from about less than 0.5 microns to about 300 microns.

95 (previously presented): The method of claim 88 wherein the composition comprises a dispersion in which the particle size of the superabsorbent polymer comprises from about less than 0.5 microns to about 300 microns.

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98 (previously presented): The substrate of any one of claims 82-87 and 94 wherein said composition comprises a product produced by the process of combining said superabsorbent polymer with said silicone and said additive when present.

97 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 88-93 and 95 wherein said composition comprises a product produced by the process of combining said superabsorbent polymer with said silicone and said additive when present.

98 and 99 (canceled without prejudice or disclaimer)

100 (new): The composition of one of claims 82-87 and 94 further comprising an oil, and wherein said composition is water blocking.

101 (new): The method of any one of claims 88-93 and 95 wherein said composition employed in said method further comprises an oil, and wherein said composition is water blocking.

102 (new) The method of claim 101 wherein said composition contains from about 0.2 to about 75 weight percent superabsorbent polymer based on said silicone, oil and superabsorbent polymer.